

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229718 TOSEC 270242

FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, BC, US

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

1. FOLLOWING IS REVISION OF PORTION OF BRIEFING MEMORANDUM ON BOTSWANA-ZAMBIA ROAD FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA.

2. BOTSWANA-ZAMBIA ROAD:

BACKGROUND: PRESIDENT KHAMA HAS REQUESTED US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PAVE THE NATA-KAZUNGULA LINK OF THE BOTSWANA-ZAMBIA ROAD, IN NORTHERN BOTSWANA. AN AID CONTRACTOR IS PRESENTLY CONSTRUCTING THIS 220-MILE GRAVEL ROAD WHICH CROSSES INTO ZAMBIA, AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$17 MILLION. THE ROAD IS VITAL FOR BOTSWANA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL SECURITY.

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3. ALTHOUGH WE HAD REFUSED THE EARLIER REQUESTS OF THE GOB TO PAVE THE ROAD, WE ARE SENDING AN ENGINEERING TEAM IN OCTOBER TO BOTSWANA TO SURVEY THIS PROJECT, WHICH THE GOB ESTIMATES WILL COST \$12 MILLION. THE ENGINEERING TEAM WAS ORIGINALLY PROJECTED TO ARRIVE IN BOTSWANA IN LATE AUGUST, IN RESPONSE TO KHAMA'S REQUEST DATED JULY 9. WE ARE ALSO SENDING ANOTHER TEAM TO SURVEY THE BROAD RANGE OF TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS.

4. ALTHOUGH FUNDS FOR PAVING ARE INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE REQUEST FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES BEING CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS, FULL FUNDING MAY NOT BE PROVIDED IN THE FINAL BILL. IN THAT SITUATION, THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD HAVE TO BE MET FROM APPROPRIATED LEVELS THROUGH REPROGRAMMING, OR AS PART OF AN FY 77 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST, OR IN THE FY 1978 REQUEST. THE GOB IS AWARE THAT THE SENATE VERSION OF THE BILL APPROPRIATES ONLY \$10 MILLION FOR BOTSWANA. OF THAT \$10 MILLION ONE MILLION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ONGOING PROGRAMS, \$3.8 MILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AS EARMARKED BY SENATOR BROOKE, LEAVING ONLY \$5.2 MILLION FOR THE ROAD WHICH IS CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT \$12.0 MILLION.

5. YOUR TALKING POINTS:

-- TO FULFILL MY PLEDGE IN LUSAKA TO HELP DEVELOP A MODERN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE INTEND TO ASSIST BOTSWANA IN DEVELOPING ITS ROAD SYSTEM. FUNDS WILL BE VOTED THIS YEAR TO INITIATE PAVING THE BOT-ZAM ROAD.

-- (IF RAISED) WHILE THE SENATE VERSION OF THE SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION DOES NOT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT FUND TO PAVE THE BOT-ZAM ROAD, WE WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

-- WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE ROAD SYSTEMS TO IMPROVING THE NETWORK OF TRANSPORTATION IN BOTSWANA AND THE REGION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

-- WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO SEND A RECONNAISSANCE TEAM TO

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BOTSWANA IN OCTOBER TO ASSESS THE BROAD RANGE OF TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS. HABIB

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